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Bowling Green State University

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DEFENDING HOME:
BG tops Toledo in
another intense rivalry
game; **PAGE 12**

BG NEWS

Bowling Green State University

A daily independent student press

TUESDAY
January 17,
2006

RAIN
HIGH: 42 LOW: 29

www.bgnews.com
VOLUME 100 ISSUE 80

Tattoos: still taboo at work

On-campus jobs
tolerate them, but
will corporations?

By Kara Ohngren
REPORTER

Two lip piercings, a nose ring
and a barbell through the
back of her neck.

"All of these can easily be
removed," explains Alisha
Yee, a black-clad freshman,
from her Kreischer-Compton
dorm room.

However, what she is hid-
ing is much more permanent.
Eleven star tattoos, ranging
widely in size and color, adorn
Yee's stomach, side and back.

"I just really liked the idea of
tattoos. Mine don't have too
much real meaning. I got them
because I wanted to," she said.
"I would love to get a whole
sleeve [of tattoos], but right
now I don't think that would
ever happen since I would be
hiding them my whole life."

Yee is unsure about what
her future career may be, and
until she is certain, additional
body ink is on hold. She would
also remove her piercings
when interviewing for a job
out of fear of being judged.

"I think it's unfair and dis-
criminatory when businesses
refuse to hire someone just
because they have a tattoo,"
she said. "Now it is such a
common thing, people you
may not expect to have a tat-
too, do, so hopefully one day it
will just be accepted."

A recent poll by the Mayo
Clinic in Minnesota found
that 23 percent of a sample of
2,000 U.S. university students
reported having one or more
tattoos, and 51 percent had a
piercing in some part of their
body other than their earlobe.
Based on those results, the
clinic estimates 20 million
Americans have tattoos and
twice that number have pierc-
ings, according to an article
put out by Ray & Berndtson
—an executive search firm.

Jerry Campbell, a tattoo art-
ist and owner of Lucky Duck
Tattoos in Toledo, agrees with
Yee on this issue, but would
never tell someone to hide a
tattoo when interviewing for
a job.

"Tattoos and piercings do
not tell you if someone is
qualified for a position or not,"
he said. "The same guy that
doesn't have any tattoos could
be killing people too, so you
can't tell because someone
may look a little different."

TATTOOS, PAGE 2

Turn that iPod down!

Hearing experts warn that pumping the jams
on your MP3 player could damage your ears

By William Scott
REPORTER

Some students like music better loud—especially in a crowded area where noise is overwhelm-
ing.

Unfortunately music lovers may be putting themselves at serious risk to develop hearing loss,
most commonly those who jack up the volume on their iPod.

"I love turning up the volume on my iPod earphones, because it makes me
feel like I'm really at a concert, listening to my music."

Sophomore Melissa Dennison says.

You see students like Dennison everywhere
on campus, in the library with their iPods,
walking to class with their iPods.

The popular MP3 player has been a
growing trend ever since they were
first produced in 2002, recogniz-
able by their sleek and unique
white earbuds.

According to Pollstar,
com, iPod sales increased
dramatically over the
Christmas season result-
ing in shoppers buying
over 14 million iPods, tri-
pling the amount purchased
the previous year.

While iPods' signature earbuds are
loved for their ability to provide a better qual-
ity sound than other earphones, people find themselves
turning up the volume more to get that enriched experience.

Although the sound is enriching, the high levels at which it is played
can be dangerous to one's hearing.

University experts are concerned that students could be risking their
hearing at the volume at which their iPod is being played. Experts are
uniquely concerned that the earbuds that come with personal MP3 play-
ers like the iPod are more damaging than other earpieces.

"There is not as much leakage of sound compared to the more traditional
earmuff headphones," Diane Harrison, an audiologist at Kenwood Hearing
center said. "These earbuds are fitting into the ear canal easier, prevent-
ing the leakage of sound and trapping it inside the canal—causing serious
damage."

Studies show that if an individual is exposed to a high level of sound
for an extended period of time, it can damage the hair cells in the inner

IPOD, PAGE 6

Students reflect on 'the dream'

Martin Luther King Jr. would be saddened by
attacks against affirmative action, prof. says

By Meghan Durbak
REPORTER

In his tribute to civil rights
leader Martin Luther King Jr.,
a University history professor
turned to his audience and said,
"The question then is this: How
would Dr. King feel if he were
alive today?"

Nigerian born, professor
Apollon Okwuchi Nwauwa
described King's likely reaction
to those gathered at the City
Council Chamber on Friday. "I
bet he would be happy and sad,
fulfilled and disappointed. He
would hesitate to say mission

accomplished, yet he would not
admit that his struggles were
in vain."

Nwauwa presented King's
fight for equality as a continu-
ation of the founding fathers'
vision of America. And on
Sunday the University Dean
of Arts and Sciences, Donald
Neiman detailed defining
moments in King's life, his
struggles and strategies during
the civil rights movement.

Nwauwa recalled the
words of the Declaration of
Independence, "We hold these
truths to be self-evident, that

all men are created equal," and
said these words started the
civil rights movement.

But it was King who would
later work "to complete what
the founding fathers had over-
looked—extension of equal-
ity, freedom and justice to all—
regardless of race, gender, and
class," Nwauwa said.

This phrase would be the
starting point that many laws
prohibiting racial and gender
discrimination would be cre-
ated from, Nwauwa said.

And also the point from
which King and other civil
rights leaders would work to
get the Civil Rights Act of 1957



Julie DiFranco: BG News

HE HAD A DREAM: Apollon Okwuchi Nwauwa gives a reflection on Martin
Luther King Jr. Friday morning. The event was free.

MLK, PAGE 2

Veterans may face hurdles to pay tuition with GI Bill

One veteran hopes to find ways to make it
easier for his peers to pay with GI Bill money

By Candice Jones
REPORTER

Military veterans who have to
wait on their monthly GI Bills
to pay education costs may
not have to wait forever now
that Undergraduate Student
Government Sen. Kevin Stevens
is working on a plan of attack.

At last week's USG meeting,
Stevens pointed out what he

considers to be a void in BGSU's
payment collections — currently,
there's no payment program to
assist military veterans.

Stevens is a veteran himself, in
the U.S. Air Force for two-and-
a-half years, and now serves in
the Toledo Air National Guard as
part of security forces.

Many veterans like Stevens
receive what they call a GI Bill

each month for their service
in the military, and use that
money to pay for their college
education.

The problem with this pay-
ment system, according to
Stevens, is that veterans receive
their payments in monthly incre-
ments, but the University collects
tuition all at once.

Stevens' idea is that solving the
problem calls for changing the
way BGSU collects bills from vet-
erans who are enrolled.

"Everyone pays to go to school

here; I don't think it matters how,"

he said.
Each month, the government
sends veterans who are enrolled
full-time \$1,034, which often isn't
enough to pay bills like tuition at
the beginning of the semester.

The University's Office of
the Bursar has yet to address
the issue, and Nancy Colman,
BGSU's bursar, couldn't com-
ment on the issue for this story,
but said her office will be looking
into it.

Any change in the current pay-

ment plan would have to take into
consideration the capabilities of
BGSU's billing system, and also
perhaps the government's policy
on payment.

That may result in totally dif-
ferent plans for veterans and for
other students, but Stevens' goal
isn't to place a higher value on
students who have served in
the military.

"I'm not saying that vets are bet-
ter than anyone else; I just think
that they have different needs,"
he said.



KEVIN STEVENS
USG SENATOR

Anxious to change the system
and give veterans another option,
Stevens won't settle this spring

BURSAR, PAGE 2

FOUR-DAY FORECAST

The four-day forecast is taken
from weather.com

WEDNESDAY



Wind High: 32°
Low: 27°

THURSDAY



Cloudy High: 43°
Low: 38°

FRIDAY



Few Showers High: 44°
Low: 36°

SATURDAY



Showers High: 43°
Low: 28°

FOR ALL THE NEWS VISIT WWW.BGNEWS.COM

Alito might have passed harshest of Senate tests

Vote tentatively slated for Jan. 24, may face Democrat opposition

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Judiciary Committee will vote on Judge Samuel Alito's nomination to the Supreme Court on Jan. 24, officials announced Monday night, and the full Senate will begin debate the following day.

In a written statement, Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said he looks forward to a "fair up-or-down vote" swiftly on Alito, President Bush's choice to succeed retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Alito, 55, an appeals court judge, is assured of approval in the committee, where all 10 Republicans have indicated their support.

Prospects for confirmation in the full Senate are strong, as well.

Democrats have not yet ruled out mounting a filibuster to delay or prevent a final vote. But that appears increasingly unlikely in the wake of Alito's testimony at confirmation hearings last week, where he parried sharply worded Democratic attacks on his judicial record and personal credibility without a major stumble.

The hearings concluded last Friday, and Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., the committee chairman, said he intended to schedule a committee vote for this week on the nomination.

Democrats said at the time that they intended to object, and they did, a move that Frist called "unjustified and desperate partisan obstructionism."

Under the rules, any senator can force a delay in a vote for one week.

Democrats said they wanted to give senators time to observe a three-day holiday weekend

ALITO, PAGE 6

Tattoos common, but cover up at interviews

TATTOOS, FROM PAGE 1

Campbell says Corporate America still tends to stereotype people who have tattoos, and he believes it's rooted in the 60s and 70s.

"It's hard to get away from the idea of when tats were associated with bike clubs and rapists," he said. "But at my shop we are tattooing more and more people that wear suits and ties; I think the taboo is bound to change sooner or later."

"Deep down, it doesn't matter what corporate thinks — people are doing what they want to do, and that's what life is all about,"

Campbell said.

The University's dining services hires students who are willing and able to work, according to Justin Elder, the student manager at the Sun Dial.

"We are not too picky when bringing on new employees, we just want to provide students with an opportunity to work," Elder said.

Dining services does not allow their employees to have mouth piercings or offensive tattoos visible while on the job.

"The piercings are completely a sanitation issue rather than an appearance issue," Elder said. "We have all different kinds of

people that go to school here, I am going to hire the person with the most experience regardless if they have tattoos or not."

There is currently a "piercing committee" set up to research the effects of working with food while having facial piercings. Dining services wants to allow their employees the freedom if it is deemed safe.

"Our student-employees are considered ambassadors to the university so our main concern is not offending other students," Elder said. "I don't think big business will fully accept tattoos and piercings until they are accepted in society."



Jordan Flower BG News

ON THE JOB: Chily's employee Sean Ferron said that he has never been asked to cover or remove his piercings which he's had since his hire.

Senator wants to help veteran students pay

BURSAR, FROM PAGE 1

for anything but the best for his fellow veterans.

"I find it hard to believe that they can't find a way to work together with veterans," he said. "It is something that I have had to deal with personally."

On Friday, USG President Aaron Shumaker said that the change could take some time.

"It may be a while before we hear anything," he said.

Stevens has had to take out student loans in order to pay for his tuition up front, and believes that other student veterans are having the same problem.

Jim McCarthy, senior, has been a member of the Ohio Air National Guard for more than four-and-a-half years, and also receives a monthly GI Bill. He's never heard of any concerns over the payment system from fellow veterans, and can't complain himself.

"I've never had any issues with the way things are now," he said.

Just in the beginning stages, Stevens' next step will be speaking with Colman in the Bursar Office on where they go from here with the GI Bill.

Speaker: While MLK was peaceful, he wasn't docile

MLK, FROM PAGE 1

and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 passed. The Civil Rights Act banned discrimination based on race, and the Voting Rights Act ended literacy tests and poll taxes as voting requirements.

A college student during the civil rights movement, Neiman said he realized race was one of the most defining issues in America. Because of this he became a civil rights historian.

In his speech held at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Neiman said that many young people today see the minister as a "bit conservative, an establishment figure who lacked the fiery militance."

"We forget during this lifetime King was often reviled as an agitator and a troublemaker — a man who pushed things too far, too fast and inflamed race relations," Neiman said.

Neiman said King's fight for righteousness, justice and equality did not stop with race relations in the United

States but extended itself to social-economic justice and his open criticism of the Vietnam War.

Nwauwa said King would also be critical of the war in Iraq if he were alive today. Quoting Jesse Jackson, Nwauwa said King would

protest the war in Iraq "because it was based on deception" and "he would have been building multi-racial, multi-cultural coalitions, fighting to end the war in Iraq, and challenging the unconstitutional moves."

According to close associates of King, Nwauwa said, the civil rights leader would also be dealing with issues of hunger, poverty and economic injustice because of the recent events in New Orleans.

In his own view, Nwauwa felt that King would be proud of the "slow but steady recognition of blacks as equals of other races" such as Colin Powell serving as the

first black U.S. Secretary of State and Condoleezza Rice becoming the first black female to serve as national security advisor, later to be Secretary of State.

On the other hand, Nwauwa felt King would be disappointed in the "continuous erosion of the principle of affirmative action" as well as the 52 percent increase in hate crimes against blacks.

Neiman added to the list problems to be remedied. "I think that we need to be very sensitive to issues of economic equity, to the impact of what we do on people's lives, and constantly assess what we do from a perspective of equity and social justice."

Having listened to Neiman's speech, teary-eyed community member Lynn Long said, "I lived through it of course. We still have a long way to go but if we can get more leaders like Martin Luther King Jr. we can do it."



DON NIEMAN
DEAN

BG NEWS BRIEFING

Police continue in search for money

The University's alumni association and the Rossford PTO are working with campus and city police after a combined \$50,000 was reported stolen last week.

Roughly \$20,000 is reportedly missing from the BGSU's alumni association, while \$30,000 was said to be missing from the Glenwood Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization.

Though University spokeswoman Teri Sharp confirmed that campus and Rossford police are working together on the investigation, further details wouldn't be made public until the police had completed their investigation, Sharp said.

Results will be turned over to the Wood County Prosecutor, where the stolen money would result in a fourth-degree felony, which could be punished by a \$5,000 fine and up to 18 months in jail.

JUST THE FACTS ON GREEK LIFE @ BGSU

There are policies that govern the use of alcohol at events, including preventing kegs and common sources of alcohol.

All fraternity and sorority houses have a staff member that lives in the house to ensure that University policies are followed.

Most fraternity and sorority houses are substance and alcohol free.

A majority of fraternity and sorority events are alcohol free.

Chapters have risk management programs to ensure the safety of its members such as designated drivers, sober monitors, etc.

Upcoming Greek Events:

IFC fraternity recruitment info table
(Half of the IFC fraternities in Mac and half in Kreischer)
January 18th & 19th 7pm-10pm
Mac and Kreischer

Panhellenic Sorority Carnival
January 23rd 10am-3pm
B side of Union Ballroom

IFC open houses
January 23rd & 25th 6pm-9pm

Panhellenic Sorority Informal Recruitment
January 23-26th

For locations and times feel free to contact Kate Freedman at:
bgusororities@hotmail.com

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FINAL SUSPECT IN STUDENT ASSAULT CAUGHT

OXFORD, Ohio (AP) — Police arrested the third of three suspects in the kidnapping, beating and robbery of a Miami University student. Seth Jett was charged Sunday with kidnapping, aggravated robbery and felonious assault. Police previously arrested Katrina Jones and Sydney Jones on the same charges.

Ursuline president lives with students in dorm

Head of college moves to new dorm to gain ideas about residents

By M.R. Kropko
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PEPPER PIKE, Ohio — There may be a generation gap with her students, but the president at Ursuline College plans to have an open-door policy when she moves into a dormitory for the spring semester.

Sister Diana Stano, 60, who heads this small Catholic school in suburban Cleveland, expects to complete the move by today. The nun will be living in a new \$5 million dorm with 28 students barely out of their teens.

Stano said she wants to gain a personal level of trust and communication with the students.

"Part of my being here I hope would be the gift of presence," she said. "I want to know what's on the mind of college students. What's important to them? What do they worry about? What do they value?"

"As a Catholic institution, I want to know where are they in terms of spirituality and religious beliefs. Is that important to them? How important to them? So my hope is that when I am here, my door will be open and that the students can come in at any time."

The opening of the new dorm planted the idea for the move.

Stano isn't sure how many other university or college presidents have stayed for more than a few days in a dorm, but she is aware of Father Michael J. Graham, president of Xavier University, a Jesuit school in Cincinnati. He has lived in The Commons since that residence hall opened in the fall of 2001.

Stano had been living with nine other Ursuline nuns in a large house on campus. She's firm about the way students should behave in the dorm.

"This is a building that's owned by Ursuline College, so we have a no smoking policy, a no drinking policy and certainly no sexual activity. You can learn that anywhere else," she said.

www.bgnews.com/campus

CAMPUS

DON'T LOOK DOWN



Jordan Flower, BG News

JUST HANGING AROUND: Freshman Ben Hartley took advantage of the warm weather over the weekend to participate in the sport of tree climbing outside the Sundial.

get a life
calendar of events

10 a.m. — 5:00 p.m.
Care Packages Sponsored by
Gospel Choir
Union Lobby

11 a.m. — 2 p.m.
Volunteer Project Information
Table
Union Lobby

10 a.m. — 4 p.m.
53rd Annual Faculty/Staff
Exhibition
This exhibition presents work in a
wide range of media by faculty
and current staff members of the
School of Art.
Fine Arts Center

11 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Blood Bowl Information Table

Sponsored by BGSU American Red
Cross Chapter
Union Lobby

9:15 p.m.
WBGU-FM / WFAL New DJ
Information Night
For those interested in becoming
DJs or getting involved in an on-
campus radio station.
West Hall 121

9:30 p.m.
"Remember the Titans" — Free
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Equipment Orientation
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- ☛ Winter Walking Challenge: Feb. 1st 4-7pm
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QUOTEUNQUOTE

"We cannot defend freedom abroad by deserting it at home."

David Strathairn as Ed Murrow from *Good Night and Good Luck*
(imdb.com)

www.bgnews.com/opinion

OPINION

STAFF EDITORIAL

Bursar should help veterans out

Serving in the armed forces is no walk in the park.

In fact, it takes a special kind of individual to summon up the courage to voluntarily enlist in the armed forces. These are the men and women who are willing to put their lives on the line and protect the freedoms and liberties we hold dear.

With that said, one would think that the University would be making every type of accommodations to these men and women. It should almost be an honor to

YOU DECIDE

Do you think that the Office of the Bursar should make an extra effort to help veterans? Send an e-mail to thenews@bgnews.com and tell us what you think, or post feedback on our Web site.

be the host institution to these brave warriors who now want to focus on making the world a better place stateside.

But currently, it is difficult for

veterans to use their GI Bill money to pay their college bills because the University wants their bills paid up front each semester. But the GI Bill comes in installments each month. Whether it be an oversight from the Office of the Bursar or not, special accommodations should be made to help these students pay tuition bills.

Money provided through the GI Bill is regulated by the government, so it shouldn't be too difficult to establish a payment plan with the Office of the Bursar.

The University should establish communication with the branch of government that provides the funds to the veterans.

It's a good possibility that this is simply an issue that has never been brought to the many minds at the Office of the Bursar. If the issue hasn't been addressed before, it's understandable that with the many other responsibilities that they have, they might not have seen this situation as a concern.

Between the Student Financial

Aid Office and the Office of the Bursar, hopefully some solution can be made to help the students out who have helped the country out.

One possible solution is establishing a payment plan similar to the one currently offered to students under Financial Aid's installment plan.

Perhaps unintentionally, the University is turning off veterans who cannot make the payments in full up front.

With higher education so

essential in today's society, veterans need to know that their community supports their efforts. And that support can come in the form of compromise between the government and the Bursar's office.

To make an impact, they should take the initiative to do what is right. If they need information about this situation, it appears that USG might be willing to help them work out a plan.

Now it's time to bring this issue to the forefront.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rejecting gay recruits makes no sense at all

All of this discussion of banning military recruiting from campuses because of their discriminatory processes could be eliminated if the military got rid of one of our governments dumbest policies: the don't ask don't tell policy.

There is no logical reason for the military to dismiss military personnel who are openly gay.

First off, our military is facing the worst recruiting crisis in modern times. Recently to deal with shortages, the military has lowered its standards, taking more at-risk recruits than ever before. Given that our armed forces are stretched thin and having trouble getting people to sign up, it makes no sense to throw out well-qualified men and women because they are gay.

Second, many of the countries that we are fighting alongside in Iraq and Afghanistan allow openly gay men and women

to serve. Great Britain has allowed openly gay men and women to serve for the past five years. They have experienced little problems with this. Our soldiers are fighting alongside gay men and gay women from other countries and there appear to be no problems from this.

The policy of dismissing gay men and women from our military is immoral and besides that it's bad policy.

MICHAEL ZICKAR
PROFESSOR, PSYCHOLOGY
mzickar@bgsu.edu

PEOPLE ON THE STREET

Other than Martin Luther King Jr., who is your role model?



RYAN MANN
SENIOR, MATH

"My dad because he's the most business-savvy person I know."



SAHR GBONDO
JUNIOR, CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

"My mom because she raised me right and set a good example."



NICHOLE GRIFFITH
SOPHOMORE, SOCIAL WORK

"My parents because they have five jobs each and are really supportive."



ANTHONY COLARUSSO
SOPHOMORE, MIS

"Stewie Griffin because one day, I will rule the world."

Holiday is more than just a day off



BRIAN SZABELSKI

Opinion Columnist

In 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed a bill creating a federal holiday to remember civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

The first of these holidays occurred January 20, 1986, to remember King's work and legacy, often incorporating peace and social justice demonstrations as well as community service projects.

However, 20 years since its first observance, Martin Luther King Jr. Day seems to have slowly lost meaning, at least among many people I know. For them, it's the same as Veterans Day or Labor Day — nothing more than a day off from classes.

That's not to say that no one will be out and about this morning, attending programs or volunteering.

But outside of those involved with the University's fraternities, sororities, and multicultural organizations, it's likely that many will sleep in, either because they can for once or because they partied a little too hard the previous night.

It feels odd that a holiday commemorating one of the greatest Americans of the past 50 years should apparently be celebrated by sleeping in until noon. What Martin Luther King Jr. Day should be is a day of reflecting on the civil rights leader's message and incorporating it into our lives, regardless of who we are. Isn't that part of the reason why the holiday was created in the first place?

In today's world, King's dream of an end to racial segregation in America still has great importance. We still live in a world where people are discriminated against based simply on their religion, sexual preference, political views, or any number of physical or personal characteristics, and even racial prejudice still exists and affects us.

One of my friends from high school, who is Asian-American, was so upset over how some people treated her at her first university that she transferred to another school a year before she had planned to.

But Brian, you might be thinking, isn't there freedom of speech? Doesn't the First Amendment protect that, no matter how bad you may think it is?

Under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, such speech is protected unless it incorporates imminent violence against a person or persons. Governments cannot make a law to ban prejudice or racism, no matter how much someone might disagree with it.

However, just because there's a law protecting prejudice and racism, does that mean you have to engage in it?

Not at all. The same freedom of speech that protects racism and prejudice also protects the right not to be racist or prejudiced. It's up to each individual person themselves to decide what they truly want to think.

And what about political views? Opposing views are absolutely necessary for a democracy to succeed, but do we need to see the bitter fighting amongst the far-right conservatives and the far-left liberals that has divided the United States in a way not seen since the battle over slavery that led up to the Civil War?

Such attacking and counter-attacking in the halls of Congress doesn't get anything done. All it does is create compromises that keep both sides unhappy and angry at each other.

I don't think this is the future that King was thinking of when he made his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, but there's something we as students can do to change it: remember the past and use it to change the future.

The simple act of remembering and reflecting on his message and trying to apply it to your own life doesn't have to be complicated.

It can be something as big as organizing a community service project to something as small as not telling that next potentially-racist joke to a friend, or trying to think with a little more open-mindedness.

The smallest acts can sometimes make the biggest difference. As students and future leaders, we must make sure that Martin Luther King Jr. Day is not just another day off from school, but a day that King's ideals of equality for all are remembered and reinforced in our minds.

The extra hours you will get to dream are an indirect result of King's work and struggles he went through for his dream, after all.

Send comments to Brian at bszabel@bgsu.edu

King's legacy continues to live



LAURIE EVANS

Opinion Columnist

Are we really equal?

Yesterday, I attended a Martin Luther King Jr. birthday celebration in the Student Union. While I listened to the reenactment of the "I Have a Dream" speech, I wondered if his dream came true.

Are we really equal?

Has all his hard work gone to waste? Has he died in vain and his memory lost?

True, most people think of Jan. 15 as a free day, but there is much more depth to his legacy.

I have to admit that I am one of those people who used to take Martin Luther King Jr. Day for granted and tried to sleep in as much as possible, but I find my attitude changing more as I grow older. As a child, I really did not understand racism or social injustice because I was not exposed to it; it was just something I heard my parents talk about.

But now as an adult, I see exactly what they were talking about.

While in college, I experienced a serious culture shock, not only because everyone did not look like me, but also because they did not share my opinion. I am constantly confronted with the idea that racism no longer exists anymore and to this day we are all equal.

Sad to say, but my life and others experiences tell me otherwise.

Sometimes, I think that the idea of racism no longer existing comes from being sheltered, not being made aware

of different situations.

Racism is not seen to the extent as it once used to be. No longer do we see public lynching, segregated schools or water fountains. African-Americans are free to sit where they choose on public transportation and attend any school they want.

But racism is committed on a more personal level nowadays. A person (no matter what color he is) should be able to order dinner in any restaurant, in any part of town and be served decently and with respect. They should not have the food they ordered as a sit down meal packed up in to-go boxes and asked to leave the restaurant for no apparent reason at all.

A person should be able to drive anywhere in a city and not be racially profiled because they fit a certain "stereotype" of a delinquent or trouble makers.

Criminals come in all colors, shapes, and sizes. The fact that the United States needs a law that forces companies and schools to employ a certain amount of minorities is embarrassing.

People say that affirmative action is outdated and no longer needed, but I feel as if it should remain in effect until the question on all applications about race is eliminated.

The argument against that is the question is optional and people should not feel pressured to answer it. But if that were the case, why is it printed in the first place?

A person's application should not be rejected because of the name that they were given. True, sometimes the names some children are given are quite unique, but that in no way affects their

ability to perform well on a job.

If we were all equal, we would not judge each other on our skin color, economic background or education.

We may have more money than someone else, but at the end of the day, no one person is better than the other. We all wake up the same, brush our teeth the same, and go to bed the same. The only difference is that the pigmentation of our skin is different.

I feel that Martin Luther King Jr. Day is just a reminder to each and every one of us not to judge each other. Each and every person on this Earth has something special and unique to bring to the table.

The idea of race is man made; therefore, it is going to take man to destroy it.

If you think about it, it takes more energy to hate someone than it is to like them. I do not think that King's hard work has gone to waste, but I do feel that his message is slowly disappearing and people are becoming "comfortable" with the current situation. The fight in our generation is just not as strong as it was in the past generations, so let us all learn from the past.

If you are unhappy with something then stand up for your self and make others listen. The worst thing that could happen is rejection.

If this happens don't stop, take it as a challenge, and do it again.

Do you agree with Laurie's view on racism within the United States? Let her know at evansl@bgsu.edu

BGNEWS

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR are to be fewer than 300 words. These are usually in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area.

GUEST COLUMNS are longer pieces between 600 and 800 words. These are usually also in response to a current issue on the University's campus or the Bowling Green area.

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Letters to the Editor and Guest Columns are printed as space on the Opinion Page permits. Additional Letters to the Editor or Guest Columns may be published online. Name, year and phone number should be included for verification purposes. Personal attacks, unverified information or anonymous submissions will not be printed.

E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS as an attachment to thenews@bgnews.com with the subject line marked "Letter to the Editor" or "Guest Column." Only e-mailed letters and columns will be considered for printing. All letters are subject to review for length and clarity before printing.

Opinion columns do not necessarily reflect the views of The BG News.

Very few things in life are really free



DANIELLE WINTERS

Opinion Columnist

It's a one-syllable word with 17 entries in the online version of Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

This one little word has a primary meaning big enough to change livelihoods.

Its first (and most important) meaning involves the makeup of our society. It's what so many people have lived and died for: "having the legal and political rights of a citizen."

This is what Americans live for, as we are the "land of the free and the home of the brave."

What in life is considered free? The question is, at what point does freedom become expensive?

What is the cost to put everything you have on the line to fight for freedom?

There is a cost associated with those who leave to pursue the concept of "freedom." Many feel it is a way to "pay it forward" to this country, since they are so fortunate to live here in a society as free and privileged as ours.

As Neil Cavuto's show on Saturday morning asks, what is "The Cost of Freedom?"

How about "freedom" in relation to our everyday lives?

Have you ever felt compelled to take The Video Professor up on his "free computer learning offer?"

The commercial claims you'll be a computer whiz in no time with this miraculous and supposedly "absolutely free" program.

Only, The Video Professor doesn't mention the \$6.95 shipping charge until the end of the commercial when he also fails to neglect the small-print "restrictions."

(The word "absolutely" will have to wait for a future column.)

You can regain that teenager-ish skin, once again, "absolutely free," with "Dr. Feder's Anti-Aging Skin Tight" serum. Can you believe they are willing to provide this \$45.00 value to you, absolutely free? Thank your lucky stars that you've come upon this value!

Oops, wait just one moment

—don't forget the shipping and handling and all the promotion fees!

As you labor over credit card applications in order to obtain those free promos they offer you, consider the consequences, responsibilities, and commitments that come along with them. As some of us know, they're not really "free" — they can come with a mountain of debt attached to them if you're not careful. (For a fun evening with friends, throw on those hard-earned T-shirts and visit www.freecreditreport.com.)

So, let's mull this over. "Free" is not always a great deal!

Sometimes, "free" is nothing but a big come-on. It's not really "free," but a big ploy to make us think we're getting a better deal than we are.

Is "buy one, get one free" on heads of lettuce really a great deal if you don't need two heads of lettuce in your refrigerator?

"Free air" at the gas station is a pretty good deal, isn't it?

I guess no one is considering that if air were a huge commodity with a monetary value, we would be striving to take pretty small breaths.

Some places actually charge you to put air in your tires! Air belongs to everyone — how can a gas station have the nerve to charge for air?

Americans are free, but does that mean we can do whatever we want?

How about free speech? Can we say what we want? I can't walk into a crowded theater and yell "fire!" I can't say something to another person that is offensive to them.

So, it would appear there isn't free speech in our country, and many "free" things really aren't as free as they appear.

If it sounds too good to be true it probably is.

Why would anyone give you something for free when it costs them money?

Just remember, there's no such thing as a free lunch.

Even the one your mom gives you when you visit home has some strings attached!

Send comments to Danielle at dwinter@bgsu.edu.

Political correctness overshadows logic



D.J. JOHNSON

Asst. Opinion Editor

Here's a story that I submit to you for your consideration.

There's a high-speed chase in Flint, Mich. Large stereo systems are being stolen from corporations within certain areas of the state. It's the fourth of its kind within the past month, and the local authorities are befuddled as to any kind of leads.

Essentially, no one knows where to even start.

The only bit of evidence that the local police have is the fact that the vehicles being used are blue Nissan Quests with South Dakota license plates on the back. There are a few other smaller clues, but very little can be used to track these thefts.

So what do you think that the Flint Police Department should do?

I know that if I were put in their shoes, I would probably stop every single blue Quest that has a South Dakota license plate I wouldn't do this because a blue Quest from South Dakota is a rarity, but because the four other times that there was a burglary, the burglars were driving the aforementioned type of vehicle.

Chances are pretty high that I'd be suspicious of any Quest (regardless of the color) from that area of the country. If I saw a maroon Quest from Montana, I'd be on the lookout, too.

This isn't to say that I wouldn't use other leads to try to solve the crime. As more parts of the

puzzle become more evident, I would use that information to help me figure out who it is stealing the stereo systems.

Checking ever car, van, truck or bus that finds itself on the Michigan interstate would be a bit over-the-top. I would only have so much time, energy and money to fund the investigation, so although the criminal could be using his Geo Metro as an everyday means of transportation, but at the end of the day, seeing a blue Quest I know that I'm going to be more weary of the blue Quest than the Geo Metro.

I have nothing against blue Quests. In fact, I drive a 2001 red Nissan Quest. I enjoy my red Quest. I can take a lot of people around in it, and it's relatively practical any time I go on long trips.

But this time around, I know that the enemy happens to be driving a blue Quest, and I am going to focus my attention on it. It wouldn't make any sense not to.

By this point, my analogous point should be clear.

When the World Trade Center was destroyed half a decade ago, we instantly learned that we are more susceptible to attack than anyone ever imagined. The United States, who is arguably the strongest nation in the civilized world, can fall to terror like any other country across the globe. People began to panic, and suddenly, the greatest thing we had to fear wasn't fear itself; The greatest thing we had to fear was an actual hate group whose mission statement is pretty succinct: destroy America.

Thankfully, we caught wind of the flying assailants, and their

names were released to the general public three days after their attack. Of the nineteen hijackers, none of them were named Pierre and Jacque. None of them were named Hans or Terrell. No one was named Eric or Tyler.

Their names were Abdulaziz, Mohald and Ziad, ladies and gentlemen. They aren't white. They aren't black. They come from one part of the world, and although some of them were residing in the country at one point in time, it's safe to say that their origin is not the United States.

But we've forgotten that. More importantly, we've forced ourselves to forget that. We don't want to be discriminatory, so we ignore this very blatant fact and accuse anyone who might remember that as a racist. In an attempt not to look like a bigot, we assume that everyone is a potential terrorist instead of people who might have some cultural link to someone from the Middle East.

To avoid another attack, we need to get over our cultural sensitivities fast. We know what part of the world the impending disaster is coming from, so it's only logical to cover our bases when securing our country and keep a wary eye of people who might have closer connections to that part of the country than others.

This isn't racism. Racism is based out of hatred, and it is bred out of fear and ignorance.

In this situation, however, there is no hatred involved. As was the case with the opening anecdote, we have a snapshot of what terrorism is who to focus on, but there's no reason

that any feelings of malice should be involved. Ignoring the facts is stupid, and political correctness contributes to that stupidity.

Why do I care if I'm being tailed in a department store? Yeah, it's happened to me before, but if I'm not going to steal anything, why should I get mad? People are going to be ignorant until the end of time, so making a big fuss about it isn't going to help anything. And sometimes, their silent pursuit may not be based solely on ignorance. If Nordstrom has noticed an extremely high African-American male population stealing their merchandise, don't they have a right to be skeptical? If you know the population your assailant belongs to, why disregard this information?

The fact of the matter is that cultural and racial topics are highly sensitive because of our fragile history and our volatile present.

With that said, if you find what I have to say hard to chew, I don't blame you. There are way too many people whose hatred and ignorance make these issues hard to discuss.

But let's not ignore the facts.

We know where the terror is coming from the same way we know which vehicles were stealing the hypothetical stereos from Flint.

But as a country, we cannot let the fear and judgment of fear-based critics blind us from the truth.

Send comments to D.J. at davidj@bgsu.edu

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Army chopper crash

Disaster outside Baghdad is 3rd in 10 days

By Jason Straziello
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A U.S. military helicopter crashed north of the Iraqi capital yesterday — the third American chopper to go down in 10 days — killing the two crew members. A resident said he saw the smoke trail of a missile before the aircraft plunged to the ground.

The military said the AH-64 Apache was conducting a combat air patrol when it went down in an area "known for terrorist activity." Officials said it was too early to determine the cause of the crash, and the names of the dead soldiers were not released. Apaches hold only a pilot and a co-pilot.

Video footage shot by AP Television News in Mishahda, north of Baghdad, showed smoke billowing from what was reported to be the crash site. Helicopters circled nearby.

Two militant groups claimed they shot down the helicopter. Neither claim could be verified.

Rashid Khalifa, 27, who has a food and drink stand in the area, said he saw the attack. "I saw the smoke trail left by the missile," he said. "I heard a hissing sound, looked around and saw the helicopter losing control before crashing down."

The U.S. command ques-



AP Photo

CHOPPER CRASH: An AH-64 Apache helicopter went down outside of Baghdad yesterday. Two militant groups are claiming responsibility.

tioned the credibility a video purportedly showing an attack on a helicopter that was posted on the Internet by one of the militant groups, the Mujahideen Army.

The wobbly video showed a militant firing a shoulder-launched missile toward what appeared to be a helicopter in the distance. The aircraft in the video was hit, burst into flames and crashed to the ground.

"A review of the footage on television of a missile being fired does not appear to show this incident today, which

remains under investigation," said Lt. Col. Barry Johnson, a U.S. spokesman.

"This appears to be another case of terrorists attempting to manipulate a tragic incident in the international media and getting the most news value out of it by using footage of something else to gain greater attention," he added.

The other group that claimed in an Internet posting that it shot down the helicopter was the Salahuddin al-Ayoubi Brigade. Both groups have carried out previous attacks.

The number of fatal U.S. military helicopter crashes in Iraq has spiked in recent weeks, fitting a wartime pattern of more frequent accidental and combat crashes during winter months.

An OH-58 Kiowa Warrior reconnaissance helicopter crashed near the northern city of Mosul on Friday, killing two pilots. On Jan. 7, a Black Hawk with 12 aboard crashed in bad weather near the northern city of Tal Afar. All eight soldiers and four civilians aboard were killed.

WB gets ready to pull its flagship program

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The Camden family is disappearing from television in May strictly for financial reasons: The WB's top executive said Sunday that the network is losing \$16 million this year on "7th Heaven."

The family drama, the most popular program in the network's history, will end its run after 10 years. The decision seems irreversible despite an Internet campaign to save it, even though "7th Heaven" is still the WB's second highest-rated show after "Gilmore Girls."

Production costs tend to jump for television series as they get older, largely because the salaries of actors and others involved grow with success. "7th Heaven," about a family of seven and all their friends, has a large cast.

Reruns of "7th Heaven" were

fading in the ratings, too, and that made it tougher for the network to recoup its investment, said Garth Ancier, the WB's top executive.

"As much as we all love the show, we do have to run a business," Ancier said.

Other older WB series, "Smallville" and "Gilmore Girls," don't have the same problem, he said.

Talks about a spinoff to "7th Heaven" have proven inconclusive so far.

The WB has struggled recently as it tries to shed its image as a teen-oriented network and seek out a broader audience. It learned the dangers of going too far when the new series "Just Legal," starring Don Johnson, attracted viewers with the average age of 50 and was swiftly canceled.

WHAT DID YOU SAY??

IPOD, FROM PAGE 1

ear—which do not grow back.

Being in a noisy area, especially with the earbuds in one's ear, the high level of noise is going to cause a lot of damage, according to one expert from the Speech and Hearing Clinic. She asked not to be quoted.

When students are using an iPod or similar MP3 player for a long extended period of time at a high decibel level, hearing loss is more likely to occur, a university expert from the Speech and Hearing Clinic said.

Noise Induced Hearing Loss, a permanent condition usually found in adults, is now being found in younger people due to the high volume at which music is being played on the earbuds.

When in a noisy area, many people turn up the volume to block out excess noise.

But experts say that doing so can be very dangerous.

Not only is it the intensity of sound at which one listens, but also the duration of time that causes hearing loss. Together, intensity and duration of sound bring about hearing loss quickly, unnoticeable to those who encounter it.

"A lot of people do not realize that the damage has occurred until it is too late. Hearing loss does not cause pain like a loud explosion would so most people don't know when they have it," Harrison said.

Signs of hearing loss usually tend to center around ringing or buzzing inside the ear, temporary hearing loss, hypersensitivity and difficulty hearing noise.

A source in the hearing clinic

explains that sometimes there is a temporary change in hearing. Although there is some gradual recovery over time, hearing damage never fully heals.

But switching headphones is not the way to solve the problem of hearing loss.

According to our source in the BGSU hearing clinic, it's not a matter of switching headphones. It doesn't matter what headphones you have, it's the volume that matters.

Solution? "Turn down the volume!" Harrison said.

If someone is standing next to you, and they can hear your music through the headphones, the volume is too loud, a University expert from the hearing clinic says.

Researchers have developed a chart displaying the guidelines for the maximum length of time a person can be exposed to continuous sound levels beginning at a safe level: 90 decibels for no longer than 8 hours, and not exceeding 105 decibels.

Harrison suggests having a "baseline test," even if you have no difficulty hearing. Hearing experts can spot minor damage and trace it over time to prevent further damage.

"If hearing loss has already begun, you cannot prevent it, but you can prolong it by being safe and turning down your volume," Harrison said.

If you suspect you have Noise Induced Hearing Loss, go to the Speech and Hearing Clinic located in the Health Center to schedule an appointment, or call the clinic at (419) 372-2515.

O'Connor replacement has influence



AP Photo

SWING VOTE: Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito (right) shakes hands. Alito confirmation is set for Jan. 24.

ALITO, FROM PAGE 2

without coming back to face an immediate vote. At the same time, they came under pressure from outside interest groups that want as much time as possible to try to rally public opposition to the nomination.

"This is a key swing vote on the Supreme Court and Democrats are not going to be rushed into anything," said Jim Manley, a spokesman for Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada.

O'Connor has cast the decisive fifth vote on cases uphold-

ing the right to an abortion, affirming affirmative action and limiting the application of the death penalty.

"This is a key swing vote... Democrats are not going to be rushed into anything."

JIM MANLEY,
SPOKESMAN

nation, meaning he can be confirmed with GOP votes alone, barring an increasingly unlikely Democratic filibuster.



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WOMAN KILLS IN BATTLE OVER THE REMOTE

FREMONT, Ohio (AP) — A woman stabbed her father to death with a steak knife and wounded two children after a dispute about what to watch on TV, authorities said. Lona Rios, 45, was being held in the Sandusky County Jail on one count of murder and two counts of attempted murder in Saturday night's attack.

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STATE

Gift card expiration discussed in House

Complaints and bad PR lead to bill that extends gift card dates

By Erica Ryan
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

COLUMBUS, Ohio — People who misplace gift cards or don't use them right away would not have to worry about them expiring for two years under a bill that would require that minimum life for the cards.

The measure, which passed the Senate in June, also would prevent retailers from charging fees that reduce the value of the cards during that time.

Sen. Robert Spada, a North Royalton Republican, said he introduced the legislation after getting complaints from family, friends and constituents who were concerned that their gift cards were no longer usable when they tried to redeem them.

"I thought it was a great idea that when you want to give a gift to a friend or family person, they actually get to use the gift," he said.

The bill has been held up in a House committee, where representatives have been working to clarify which cards would be covered. About a dozen states have passed laws regulating gift cards' expiration dates.

The National Retail Federation

estimated that the average customer would spend about \$88 dollars on gift cards during the holiday season.

William and Glenna Bigelow said they know what it's like to open a drawer and discover a gift card that had been misplaced and has since expired, so the proposed law would be helpful. The suburban Columbus couple said they also have had cards that started deducting fees if they were not used within a set time.

Jeff Maxwell, 41, of Columbus, said he hasn't had much trouble with gift cards, but the bill doesn't go far enough.

"I think if you're purchasing something from a store, it should be valid as long as that store is in business," he said.

Attorney General Jim Petro's office has received about 460 complaints about gift cards in the last five years, including about 77 in the last year, spokeswoman Michelle Gatchell said. She said the complaints included expiration dates and extra fees.

But Lora Miller of the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants said expiration dates are often necessary to prevent problems with taxes and accounting.

"In general, we think it should be left up to the free market," Miller said.

The group opposed a previous proposal that would have banned



CHANGING THE RULES: Rod Paulette holds a Starbucks gift card that he received as a gift. An Ohio House committee is considering a bill passed by the Senate that would require a minimum life of two years on gift cards and keep retailers from charging fees that reduce the cards' value.

any expiration dates for the cards, but took a neutral position this time because Spada worked with the council on a compromise, Miller said.

Some retailers have voluntarily stopped charging fees and adding expiration dates in the last few years in response to customer complaints and bad

publicity, said Evan Johnson, an administrator for the Division of Consumer Affairs in Montgomery County, Md. The department has conducted an annual survey of gift cards since 2003.

In the first survey, 18 of the 30 gift cards analyzed had fees or expiration dates attached. That number had dropped to nine in

last year's survey, Johnson said.

"I think the word got out and some companies got embarrassed," Johnson said.

Rod Paulette, 39, of Columbus, who used a gift card he got for Christmas at a Starbucks coffee shop Sunday, said he liked the idea of a law regulating the cards. He said the cards make

gift-giving easier.

"You don't know what they want and people don't know what they want half the time," he said.

Spada said he wanted to include cards sold by companies such as Visa and MasterCard, but the idea met too much opposition.



AP File Photo

STANDING DOWN, STANDING STRONG: Bob Ney has temporarily stepped down as House Administration Committee Chairperson.

Ney kept from Administration Committee

Democrats pressure chairman to stay out of GOP reform efforts

By David Hammer
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The House Republican leadership has achieved its goal of separating Rep. Bob Ney, the committee chairman implicated in a burgeoning scandal, from GOP efforts to change how Congress interacts with lobbyists and their clients.

With Ney's decision to temporarily step down from chairing the powerful House Administration Committee, the six-term Ohio Republican won't have any control over his party's efforts to stem the damage caused by disgraced GOP lobbyist Jack Abramoff.

As administration committee chairman, Ney would have over-

seen those reforms. House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., wanted to make sure that didn't happen and asked Ney last week to step aside as chairman of the panel.

In pleading guilty to three felonies this month, Abramoff put Ney at the center of the investigation. Abramoff swore that he and associates plied Ney with campaign donations, lavish free travel, entertainment and meals in exchange for official acts. Ney has denied any wrongdoing.

Some of Ney's alleged ties to Abramoff involved his chairmanship of the committee, such as the lucrative contract he gave to an Abramoff client in 2003 to improve wireless telephone reception in House buildings.

Ney said Sunday the allegations against him had become a distraction from the Republican reform effort.

"There's a lot of people that are having some heartburn with all the publicity and if they have heartburn I can be the Roloids," Ney said in an interview with The Associated Press Radio Network from his home in Heath, Ohio.

"I'll just step aside and someone can run the committee and then I feel once I'm cleared, I'll be able to come back," he said.

Spokesmen for Hastert and acting House Majority Leader Roy Blunt, R-Mo., did not return calls Sunday night to comment on Ney's decision.

Rep. Vernon Ehlers, R-Mich., is the next highest-ranking Republican on the administration committee. The moderate Republican from the Grand Rapids area may be best known for spearheading legislation to clean up sediment in the Great Lakes. He's been in the House since 1993.

The administration committee doles out House contracts, and oversees federal elections, the budgets of other committees and even members parking spaces. Ney had been known as the "Mayor of Capitol Hill" for the control he had.

Ney tried to get ahead of the allegations last summer by directing the House clerk to set up an electronic system for House members to disclose privately paid travel. The system still isn't in place and trips are still filed on paper, in binders only available in the basement of a House office building.

"I pushed about nine months ago to have lobby reform, but nobody really would listen to me," Ney said Sunday. "I wanted to do it then because that way it's made much more clear so members don't get into positions like I have."

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CLINTON BASHES BUSH ADMINISTRATION

NEW YORK (AP) — Sen. Hillary Clinton yesterday blasted the Bush administration as "one of the worst" in U.S. history and compared the Republican-controlled House of Representatives to a plantation where dissenting voices are squelched during a Martin Luther King Jr. event.

NATION

www.bgnews.com/nation

NASA heads for Pluto today

Radioactive plutonium used for fuel in spacecraft

By Mike Schneider
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — An unmanned NASA spacecraft the size of a piano is set to lift off today on a nine-year journey to Pluto, the last unexplored planet in the solar system.

Scientists hope to learn more about the icy planet and its large moon, Charon, as well as two other, recently discovered moons in orbit around Pluto.

The \$700 million New Horizons mission also will study the surrounding Kuiper Belt, the mysterious zone of the solar system that is believed to hold thousands of comets and other icy objects. It could hold clues to how the planets were formed.

"They finally are going! I can't believe it!" said Patricia Tombaugh, 93, widow of Clyde Tombaugh, the Illinois-born astronomer who discovered Pluto in 1930.

Patricia Tombaugh, her two children, and the astronomer's younger sister planned to witness the launch of the New Horizons spacecraft at the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station this afternoon.

Pluto is the only planet discovered by a U.S. citizen, though some astronomers dispute Pluto's right to be called a planet. It is an oddball icy dwarf unlike the rocky planets of Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars and the gaseous planets of Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.



Terry Renna AP Photo

BEYOND THE LAST STAR: Nuclear Engineer Craig Marianno demonstrates some of the radiation detection devices that will be used during the New Horizons mission launch. The spacecraft, powered by plutonium, is scheduled for liftoff this afternoon on a nine to 14 year trip to Pluto.

NASA has sent unmanned space probes to every planet but Pluto.

"What we know about Pluto today could fit on the back of a postage stamp," said Colleen Hartman, a deputy associate administrator at NASA. "The textbooks will be rewritten after this mission is completed."

New Horizons will lift off on an Atlas V rocket, which was rolled to the launch pad yesterday, and speed away from Earth at 36,000 mph, the fastest spacecraft ever launched. It will reach Earth's moon in about nine hours and arrive in 13 months at Jupiter, where it will use the giant planet's gravity as a slingshot, shaving five

years off the 3-billion-mile trip.

The launch had drawn protests from anti-nuclear activists because the spacecraft will be powered by 24 pounds of plutonium, which will produce energy from natural radioactive decay.

NASA and the U.S. Department of Energy have put the probability of an early-launch accident that

could release plutonium at 1 in 350. The agencies have brought in 16 mobile field teams that can detect radiation and 33 air samplers and monitors.

"Just as we have ambulances at football games, you don't expect to use them, but we have them there if we need them," NASA official Randy Scott said.

Court: Man will face his mandated death at 76

Inmate was convicted of ordering the deaths of 3 outside witnesses

By David Kravets
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — The U.S. Supreme Court rejected an appeal yesterday from a 76-year-old convicted killer who argued that he was too old and feeble to be executed.

The ruling cleared the way for Clarence Ray Allen — legally blind, nearly deaf and in a wheelchair — to be executed by injection early today for a triple murder he ordered from behind bars to silence witnesses to another killing.

Allen, whose birthday was yesterday, stood to become the oldest person executed in California — and the second-oldest put to death nationally — since the Supreme Court allowed capital punishment to resume in 1976.

He raised two claims never before endorsed by the high court: That executing a frail old man would violate the U.S. Constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment, and that the 23 years he spent on death row were unconstitutionally cruel as well.

The high court rejected all three of his requests for a stay of execution, about 10 hours before he was to be put to death.

On one of those orders, Justice Stephen Breyer filed a dissent, saying: "Petitioner is 76 years old, blind, suffers from diabetes and is confined to a wheelchair, and has been on death row for 23 years. I believe that in the circumstances he raises a significant question as to whether his execution would constitute cruel and unusual punishment. I would grant the application for stay."

The Supreme Court has never set an upper age limit for executions or created an exception for physical infirmity.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, the California Supreme Court and a federal appeals court previously refused to spare Allen's life.

Allen went to prison for having his teenage son's 17-year-old girlfriend murdered for fear she



CHARLES RAY ALLEN

Atlanta mayor chides population on racism

Franklin on equality: 'Employ a homeless man or woman'

By Errin Haines
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA — The mayor of Atlanta called yesterday for "bold,

audacious" action to make sure society really heeds the message of the Rev. Martin Luther King, and urged listeners gathered to mark his holiday not to forget the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

"It is our time to step up to the plate as we have done in the past to lead this country and world by

example," Mayor Shirley Franklin said at the King Day service at Ebenezer Baptist Church, where King preached from 1960 until his death in 1968.

This year is the 20th anniversary of the federal holiday, first held on Jan. 20, 1986. Sunday would have been King's 77th

birthday.

Franklin urged listeners to "comprehend the full message of Dr. King" — by helping the young, the old and the poor and demanding more federal funding for Hurricane Katrina victims.

"Employ a homeless man or woman," she said. "Sponsor a homeless family. Give a convicted felon who has served his time another chance."

Hurricane Katrina debris along New Orleans' Martin Luther King Boulevard, a grassy median near a King statue and memorial, had been cleaned up in advance of the King Holiday parade that ended there yesterday, but many nearby buildings remained abandoned and in ruins.

New Orleans Mayor Ray

Nagin called on black people to rebuild the city, which was more than 60 percent black before Katrina displaced about three-quarters of its population.

"This city will be a majority African American city," Nagin told a crowd at City Hall. "It's the way God wants it to be. You can't have New Orleans no other way. It wouldn't be New Orleans."

Americans marked the holiday elsewhere across the country with services and volunteer projects to aid communities.

Hundreds of people in Columbia, S.C., crowded into Zion Baptist Church to kick off a march to the Statehouse for

FRANKLIN, PAGE 9

DEATH PENALTY, PAGE 9

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'Brokeback' gets multiple honors

Award stage also occupied by a Huffman and a Hoffman in acting areas

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP) — The cowboy romance "Brokeback Mountain" led the Golden Globes yesterday with four prizes, including best dramatic film and the directing honor for Ang Lee.

It was a triumphant night for films dealing with homosexuality and transsexuality. Along with the victories for "Brokeback Mountain," acting honors went to Felicity Huffman in a gender-bending role as a man preparing for sex-change surgery in "Transamerica" and Philip Seymour Hoffman as gay author Truman Capote in "Capote."

"I know as actors our job is usually to shed our skins, but I think as people our job is to become who we really are and so I would like to salute the men and women who brave ostracism, alienation and a life lived on the margins to become who they really are," Huffman said.

The Johnny Cash biography "Walk the Line" won the Globe for best musical or comedy film and earned acting honors for stars Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon.

Director Lee's "Brokeback Mountain," the story of two rugged Western family men (Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal) concealing their affair, has emerged as a front-runner for the Oscars — which occasionally have handed out top acting prizes for performers in homosexual or gender-bending roles but have never

given the best-picture Oscar to a gay-themed film.

Oscar nominations come out Jan. 31, with the awards presented March 5.

"Brokeback Mountain" also won for best screenplay and song, "A Love That Will Never Grow Old."

Phoenix and Witherspoon won for best actor and actress in a movie musical or comedy for the biopic that follows country legend Cash's career and his long courtship with the love of his life, June Carter.

The Globe audience clapped along to Cash's song "I Walk the Line" as Phoenix took the stage.

"Who would ever have thought that I would win in the comedy or musical category?" said Phoenix, poking fun at his image for dark, brooding roles. "Not expected."

Phoenix, who did his own singing in the film, thanked "John and June for sharing their life with all of us."

"This film is really important to me," said Witherspoon, who offers a spirited performance and fine singing as Carter. "It's about where I grew up, it's about the music I grew up listening to, so it's very meaningful."

George Clooney, who was among the directing nominees for "Good Night, and Good Luck," won the supporting-actor Globe for the oil-industry thriller "Syriana" and Rachel Weisz earned the supporting-actress prize for the murder thriller "The Constant Gardener."

"Syriana" spins a convoluted story of multiple characters caught up in a web of deceit, greed, corruption and power-brokering over Middle Eastern oil supplies. Clooney plays a fiercely devoted CIA undercover agent who comes to question his country's actions in the region.

Clooney thanked writer-director Stephen Gaghan for a movie "that asks a lot of difficult questions."

There are similar corporate undertones to "The Constant Gardener," in which Weisz plays a humanitarian-aid worker whose husband (Ralph Fiennes) is drawn into a dogged investigation of business interests connected to her murder.

"I share this with Ralph Fiennes," said Weisz. "One couldn't ask for a more magical, a more magical, committed actor."

"Brokeback Mountain" won the screenplay award for Larry McMurtry and Diana Ossana. McMurtry thanked his constant

companion during the lonely process of writing.

"Most heartfelt, I thank my typewriter. My typewriter is a Hermes 3000, surely one of the noblest instruments of European genius," McMurtry said.

The Palestinian film "Paradise Now," a dark tale of two Arab friends tapped to carry out a suicide bombing in Israel, won the prize for foreign-language film.

Television winners included Geena Davis for best drama series actress as the U.S. president in "Commander in Chief," Hugh Laurie for drama series actor as a cranky, pill-popping doctor in "House," Steve Carell for best comedy series actor as an incompetent boss in "The Office," Jonathan Rhys Meyers for miniseries or movie actor as Elvis Presley in "Elvis," and S. Epatha Merkerson for miniseries or movie actress as a boarding house proprietor who takes in an outcast teen in "Lackawanna Blues."

Mayor: Dream is still not a reality

FRANKLIN, FROM PAGE 8

the annual King Day rally.

"Martin Luther King had a dream. Some 38 years later, how much progress have we really made toward living that dream?" the Rev. Charles Jackson told the crowd.

In Philadelphia, organizers of the Martin Luther King Day of Service expected thousands of volunteers to help with 600 projects in the area.

Among them: the building of a house that will be trucked to Lafayette, La., for a family made homeless by Katrina and construction of a two-story playground house.

Absent from the Atlanta service was King's widow, Coretta Scott King, who suffered a stroke and heart attack last August. She had received a standing ovation Saturday night when she appeared on stage with her children at an

awards dinner, but she did not speak.

Last month, the board of directors of The King Center, located next to the Atlanta church, broached the possibility of selling the center to the National Park Service. But some King family members have been sharply critical of the idea.

Isaac Newton Farris, a nephew of King who is president of the King Center, is one of the supporters, and he mentioned the idea in his remarks yesterday. Farris said the sale would help them "devote more resources — human and economic — to developing programs, not managing buildings."

"You still will be able to visit the King Center — we just won't own it," he said. "We want the King Center to be engineers of society, not engineers of buildings."

Hit man murdered a witness, bystanders

DEATH PENALTY, FROM PAGE 8

would tell police about a grocery-store burglary. While behind bars, he tried to have witnesses in the case wiped out, prosecutors said. He was sentenced to death in 1982 for hiring a hit man who killed a witness and two bystanders.

Allen's heart stopped in September, but doctors revived him and returned him to San Quentin Prison's death row.

Before Allen, the oldest person executed in California since the reinstatement of the death penalty was a 62-year-old man put to death last

January. He had spent 21 years on death row.

Last month in Mississippi, John B. Nixon, 77, became the oldest person executed in the United States since capital punishment resumed. He did not pursue an appeal based on his age.

Over the years, some justices on the Supreme Court have expressed interest in deciding whether a long stay on death row can be unconstitutionally cruel.

In 2002, Breyer said in the case of a Florida inmate who spent 27 years in prison: "It is fairly asked whether such punishment is both unusual and cruel."

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NUCLEAR COVERAGE LEADS TO BAN FOR CNN

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran banned CNN from working in the country due to its mistranslation of comments made by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in a recent news conference. Announced yesterday on state-run television, the ban highlights a continuing tension between Iran and the West.

www.bgnews.com/world

WORLD

Africa's first female leader begins

Liberian head of state promises progression, no more violence

By Hans Nichols

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MONROVIA, Liberia — Africa's first elected female head of state Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was sworn in yesterday as war-battered Liberia's new president, promising a "fundamental break" with the West African nation's violent past and pledging to rebuild.

With U.S. Navy warships offshore for the first time since the civil war's end two years ago, and first lady Laura Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on hand in a show of support, the moment was met with thunderous applause from thousands of guests.

"We know that your vote was a vote for change, a vote for peace, security ... and we have heard you loudly," the 67-year-old Sirleaf said in her inaugural speech. "We recognize this change is not a change for change's sake, but a fundamental break with the past."

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan sent congratulations, saying Sirleaf had a "historic mandate to lead the nation toward a future of lasting peace and stability."

Founded by freed American slaves in 1847, Liberia was prosperous and peaceful for more than a century, bolstered by abundant timber and diamond wealth. But back-to-back civil wars from 1989 to 2003 brought the country to its knees, killing 200,000 people and displacing half the nation's population of 3 million.

It is now one of the world's poorest countries, ranked 206th in terms of per capita income out of 208 countries on 2004 World Bank list.

Today, not even the capital has running water or electricity; the rich rely on generators, the poor on candles. Unemployment is 80 percent. "We have all suffered. The individual sense of deprivation is immense," Sirleaf said.

She acknowledged the task of rebuilding would be coupled with high expectations, but called for patience.

"The task of reconstructing our devastating economy is awesome," she said. "There will be no quick fix, yet we have the potential to promote a healthy economy in which Liberians and international investors can prosper."

Ensuring Liberia remains peaceful, though, will be Sirleaf's most pressing — and perhaps most difficult — task.

George Weah, the soccer star who lost the November runoff, was backed by most of the country's top warlords and faction leaders. He grudgingly accepted defeat and attended the inauguration.

Several lawmakers in the new legislature, including the House speaker, are under a U.N. travel ban and assets freeze for constituting "a threat to peace." One newly appointed senator ordered his troops to hack off the ears of a captured president in 1990. Others are allies of one-time warlord and president Charles Taylor, who was forced from power in 2003 as rebels shelled the capital.

Another crucial task: assuring the future of 100,000 ex-combatants who laid down arms last year. Many of them are prowling the streets, unemployed.

For now, Sirleaf's government is backed by 15,000 U.N. troops. A similar U.N. force pulled out of neighboring Sierra Leone in the final days of 2005, completing a successful, five-year mission that restored the peace.

Many see Taylor as one of the biggest threats. Exiled to Nigeria, he has been accused by some U.N. officials of trying to meddle in Liberian affairs,



Charles Dharapak AP Photo

IT'S OFFICIAL: Liberia's new President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, right, is helped with a sash by Liberian Senior Ambassador-at-large George W. Wallace, Jr., during her inauguration at the Capitol in Monrovia yesterday.

mostly by telephone.

Taylor is wanted by a U.N.-backed war crimes court in Sierra Leone for his role in fueling that country's civil war, but Nigeria has refused to hand him over.

In an interview with NBC's "Today" show broadcast yesterday, Sirleaf suggested she would like to see Taylor put on trial.

"Mr. Taylor has always said he wanted his day in court to defend himself. We should grant him that privilege,"

she said.

Rice said she was confident Taylor would be handed over to the Sierra Leone court eventually. He "is through raping and pillaging this country, and the Liberian people are trying to look forward," Rice told reporters on a flight to Monrovia.

In her address, Sirleaf promised to stamp out corruption — a key step to win over skeptical foreign donors.

She also called on Liberians abroad and refugees in West

Africa to return and rebuild. The U.N. says nearly 400,000 Liberians are displaced, both inside the country and the region.

Born in Liberia in 1938, Sirleaf worked her way through college in the United States. She graduated with a master's degree in public administration from Harvard in 1971 and took top jobs in Liberia, including finance minister, and senior positions at Citibank, the World Bank and the U.N.

CIA kills 17 in Pakistan, apology demanded

Prime Minister will still come to U.S. this week as scheduled

By Riaz Khan

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Pakistan's ruling party yesterday demanded an apology for an alleged CIA airstrike that killed at least 17 people, but the country's prime minister said his trip to the United States this week would go ahead as planned.

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz and his ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Q yesterday condemned the alleged U.S. airstrike on a village near the Afghan border, which intelligence officials have said targeted al-Qaida's No. 2 leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri.

But Aziz said he was still scheduled to leave today for the United States, where he said he would talk about security issues but also meet business leaders to encourage foreign investment.

The leader called Friday's airstrike on a village near the Afghan border "very regrettable" but said, "I don't think that takes away from the fact that Pakistan needs investment."

The Muslim League-Q party later issued a statement demanding an official apology from the United States.

Islamic groups, meanwhile, vowed to step up anti-American protests.

Al-Zawahiri, Osama bin Laden's top lieutenant, was invited to an Islamic dinner in the village but did not show up, two Pakistani officials told The Associated Press.

Al-Zawahiri sent some aides to the dinner instead and investigators were trying to determine whether they had been in any of the three houses destroyed in the missile strike, one of the officials said Sunday.

In Washington, a U.S. counterterrorism official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the information's sensitivity, said it is not yet known if al-Zawahiri was killed in Friday's attack.

The official said the compound that was hit has been visited in

AIRSTRIKE, PAGE 11

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Orientation and
first year programs

'Serious concerns' rally more to stop Iran

Russia and China the latest countries to demand stop to nuclear program

By Beth Gardiner
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — Moscow and Beijing joined the U.S. and its European allies in demanding yesterday that Iran fully suspend its nuclear program, while Vladimir Putin held out hope for a compromise, saying Tehran might agree to move its uranium enrichment program to Russia.

China, Russia, France, the United States, Germany, and Britain expressed "serious concerns" about Iran's resumption of small-scale uranium enrichment, Britain's Foreign Office said.

The powers stopped short of referring the issue to the U.N. Security Council, which could impose sanctions, instead calling for an emergency board meeting of the International Atomic Energy on Feb. 2-3 to discuss the issue. The 35-nation IAEA board could itself refer the issue to the Security Council.

The stepped up diplomatic activity came nearly a week after Iran removed U.N. seals at its main uranium enrichment plant and resumed research on nuclear fuel after a two-year hiatus.

The move alarmed the West, which fears Iran intends to build an atomic bomb. Iran claims its program is peaceful, intended only to produce electricity and it has threatened to end all cooperation the U.N. nuclear watchdog if it is brought before the Security Council.

U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Sunday that she wants a vote as soon as possible on whether to refer Iran to the council and is working to



POWER IN NUMBERS: Russian President Vladimir Putin and German Chancellor Angela Merkel during a meeting in the Moscow Kremlin yesterday. During her six-hour visit to Moscow, her first as Germany's leader, Merkel also was to meet with human rights groups.

line up support.

"We've got to finally demonstrate to Iran that it can't with impunity just cast aside the just demands of the international community," Rice said while traveling in Africa.

The Russian president suggested there might still be hope of avoiding that path, saying Iran has not ruled out conducting its

uranium enrichment in Russia, which would allow for close oversight.

"We have heard various opinions from our Iranian partners on that issue. One of them has come from the Foreign Ministry — our partners told us they did not exclude the implementation of our proposal," Putin said in Moscow. "In any case, it's neces-

sary to work carefully and avoid any erroneous moves."

Iran's ambassador to Moscow praised the idea.

"This is a good initiative to resolve the situation. We believe that Iran and Russia should find a way out of this jointly," Gholamreza Ansari said in comments translated into Russian and shown on state Channel

One television.

The U.S. and the Europeans need support from Russia and China for referral because they have veto power in the Security Council.

Russia and China — which have close commercial ties with Iran — have resisted referral but also have shown increasing impatience with Tehran's defiance.

A Foreign Office spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity in keeping with government policy, said representatives of the six nations who met for seven hours in London agreed "on the importance of Iran returning to the full suspension and negotiating process."

Putin said his proposal didn't mean Russia's strategy differed from the one the Western powers are pursuing.

"Russia, Germany, our European partners and the United States have very close positions on the Iranian problem," he said after meeting with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

China made no comment after the talks in London, but took a cautious tone earlier Monday.

"All relevant sides should remain restrained and stick to solving the Iranian nuclear issue through negotiations," the Foreign Ministry in Beijing said in a statement.

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw, who was not at the meeting, said after it ended that London also wanted Iran to return to talks.

"What we hope is that as a result of this and other diplomatic pressure is that the Iranians will come back to the negotiating table ... and will recognize the good intent of the European three," he told Channel 4 news, referring to Britain, France and Germany, which negotiated with Tehran on behalf of the European Union for 2 1/2 tense years.

Straw said the "onus is on Iran" to prove its program is peaceful.

CIA targets Al-Qaida

AIRSTRIKE, FROM PAGE 10

the past by significant terrorist figures. "There were strong indications that was happening again," the official said.

With media reports out of Pakistan indicating that at least four foreigners were killed, the official said it appears that some damage was done, even if al-Zawahri was not there. "This place had a history," the official said.

Islamic groups held nationwide protests Sunday as anger mounted over the attack that Pakistan said killed innocent civilians.

"There will be more ... bigger protests," Shahid Shamsi, a spokesman for the anti-American religious coalition that organized the rallies, said yesterday.

Protesters believe the airstrike was ordered by the CIA and launched by U.S. forces pursuing Taliban and al-Qaida militants in neighboring Afghanistan,

and Shamsi said the war on terror should not extend across borders without permission.

"Pakistani civilians, including children, were killed," Shamsi said. "Principles cannot be broken in the name of (fighting) terrorism."

In the first comments about the attack from a top U.S. official, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Sunday that serious action was necessary against al-Qaida.

"These are not people who can be dealt with lightly," Rice said.

Many in this nation of 150 million people oppose the government's participation in the U.S.-led war against international terrorist groups, and there is increasing frustration over a recent series of suspected U.S. attacks along the frontier aimed at militants.

"They should try to work to improve their image," Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said yesterday.

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BG SPORTS

BRIEFING

Czisny takes seventh at skating nationals

BGSU sophomore Alissa Czisny placed seventh at the U.S. Figure Skating Championships. Sasha Cohen and Kimberly Meissner placed first and second, respectively, and earned a spot on the U.S. Olympic team. An injured Michelle Kwan's petition was granted for the third spot on the team, providing she can prove she is healthy enough to compete.

OHIO STATE: HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR TO COMPETE FOR TOUCHES. PAGE 13



SPORTS

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BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

MEN'S BASKETBALL

A second chance for BG

Falcons learn lesson, topping Toledo with strong second half

By Ryan Autullo
SPORTS EDITOR

BGSU men's coach Dan Dakich casually entered the post-game press conference at Anderson Arena, engaged in light conversation with a reporter before humoring the media with a few remarks.

What a difference a few plays will make.

Dakich's attitude on Sunday afternoon suggested his team had made monumental strides following a heartbreaking one-point loss to Northern Illinois just four days earlier.

In actuality, the Falcons simply learned how to finish a game as they hit crucial shots and played solid defense down the stretch in a 59-52 victory over Toledo, adding yet another chapter to a passionate rivalry.

"Experience in these situations from the other night probably helped," Dakich said.

On Wednesday, The Falcons led Northern by 15 during the first half and shot season bests in field goal and three-point percentage. But a Mike McKinney tip-in with four seconds remaining negated all that went right for the Falcons.

"We felt like we let up against Northern Illinois a little bit," said BG senior Mawel Soler. "This game, we wanted to come out with a defensive intensity and just play for 40 minutes."

Anything less would have likely resulted in defeat.

UT's Justin Ingram hit a pair of free throws with 50 seconds remaining to cut the Rockets' deficit to 55-52, but BG's John Floyd responded at the other end with a tough eight-footer — his only field goal of the day — to once again make it a two possession game. Ingram then missed two 3-pointers before Soler grabbed the rebound, got fouled, and hit both free throws.

"As a whole it's frustrating because we lost to a Bowling Green team we thought we could beat," said Ingram, who scored 10 points. "We just didn't do anything at the end. We needed to make a defensive stop, and Floyd hit a big shot."

The Falcons improve to 6-8 overall and 2-2 in the Mid-American Conference despite a poor shooting effort by the team's leading scorer, Martin Samarco, who entered the game with 18.1 ppg, scored 12 points on just 3-for-21 shooting from the field, including 2-for-10 from 3-point range. Soler, BG's only senior, took advantage of Samarco's misfortune and had game-highs with 19 points and nine rebounds.

Soler also had five of the



WITH AUTHORITY: BG's Mawel Soler slams down a first half dunk during the Falcons' 59-52 over Toledo on Saturday at Anderson Arena. Soler, a senior, had game-highs of 19 points and nine rebounds.

Falcons' 13 steals — contributing to Toledo's 24 turnovers. In contrast, BG committed just 13 turnovers — three in the second half.

"It's a tough loss to take because we were right there," said UT coach Stan Joplin. "You have to steal some games on the road, and we had an opportunity to do that, but [we had] too many

turnovers."

Many of the Rockets' turnovers were a result of sloppy or rushed offensive sets, but BG also played a vital part by playing physical defense in the paint and out on the perimeter. Toledo (8-5, 1-4) had just seven points off turnovers compared to 18 by the Falcons.

"Every time I come in the game, coach tells me to pressure the

ball and cause the opponents to do stuff they don't want to do," said point guard Moon Robinson. "Tonight, it worked; I made a few steals and made them do a few things they didn't want to do."

Not including Sunday's meeting, five of the last seven games played between BG and Toledo

FAST START, PAGE 13

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

BG overcomes surge from Kent

Falcons top resilient Flashes to remain unbeaten in MAC

By Jessica Ameling
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

KENT, Ohio — The Kent State Golden Flashes had everything going for them Saturday afternoon.

A win over the Falcons would have been the 500th in school history and would have extended their home win streak to 15 games. Kent shot 50 percent in the second half compared to BG's 25 percent. Falcon starters Liz Honegger and Kate Achter even fouled out.

But in the end it was BG that claimed its first win at the M.A.C. Center in almost 12 years, 61-58. The Falcons remain unbeaten in the Mid-American Conference, 3-0, and extend their overall record to 12-2.

"Both teams left it all on the floor, both teams played with a lot of intensity and desire, and we feel very fortunate to come away with a win in this arena," BG coach Curt Miller said.

Both teams got off to a slow

start offensively in this rematch of last year's MAC championship. With 11:58 remaining in the first half, the score was still 8-8, with both teams shooting 3-for-11 from the field.

Then the Falcons' offense simply caught fire.

Carin Horne hit the first and second 3's of the game for six of her nine total points. Honegger (10 rebounds) recorded all of her nine points during this stretch. Ali Mann, the team's leading scorer with 19, started hitting jumpers.

The Falcons went into the locker room with a 37-22 advantage, after shooting 41.7 percent compared to 29.6 percent by Kent.

"In the first half we just fed off each other's energy," Mann said. "There were times in the first half that it really felt like BG basketball and that feeling is just the perfect basketball feeling."

BG carried its momentum into the second half, as Mann opened the period with a 3, extending the lead to 40-22. Achter (11 points, five

WOMEN, PAGE 13

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

BG takes battle of top defenses

Women use solid 'D' to win at Kent for first time since 1994

By John Turner
REPORTER

KENT, Ohio — If it's true that defense wins championships, then the members of the BGSU women's basketball team have a lot to look forward to this season.

The team has dominated the opposition defensively, holding 12 out its last 13 opponents to fewer than 60 points in regulation. The Falcons also lead the conference in fewest points allowed per game at just 54.2. They've also forced teams to a combined field goal percentage of just 37.2 this season.

"Our defensive is winning games right now," said BG coach Curt Miller.

So it came as no surprise that when BGSU and Kent State, two of the top defensive squads in the conference, met Saturday, all eyes would be on the defenses of the two teams.

The Falcons won 61-58 —

their first victory at the M.A.C. Center in over a decade. In order to do so, they had to overcome the pressure defense of the Golden Flashes.

"We have not done a very good job, in my tenure, of handling the pressure defense that Kent comes at you with every night and we have not handled that very well at all in this arena," Miller said. "We let the physical play take us out of rhythm. So if there was any preparation that was more important than any other for this, it was to be able to play the first 20 minutes with composure, knowing how physical of a game it's going to be."

The team took the coach's advice to heart in the first-half. Bowling Green started quickly by coming up with defensive stops at one end of the floor and calmly picking apart the physical, high-tempo Kent State defense at the other end. The Falcons' opened up a 15-point lead at the half, holding a talented Golden Flash offense

DEFENSE, PAGE 13

GYMNASTICS

Falcons finish third at All-Ohio

Women not upset with performance but seek improvement

By Colin Wilson
REPORTER

COLUMBUS — They may have come in third place Saturday, but the BGSU gymnasts are not hanging their heads by any means.

BG's overall score of 186.700 was not enough to get past either Kent State, which scored 189.375 points, or meet winner Ohio State which scored 190.200.

"We actually pulled things together really well," said BG co-

captain Jessica Guyer. "We got out the jitters which is always what the first meet is for."

Guyer put forth a stellar effort, posting the best score on the vault with 9.725 to go along with a 9.525 on the beam and a 9.675 on the floor routine.

The Falcons' best event was vault as they topped both teams' totals in the event with the help of all six competitors, who each scored a 9.425 or better.

BG can not dwell on this loss, though, it needs to keep moving forward and learn from this weekend's meet. Falcon coach Dan Connelly stressed the team

must adjust quickly following Saturday's meet.

"I think this will be an eye-opener," he said. "The season is now here, we don't have any time left, we gotta do it now."

Jillian Stranges also had a good evening, finishing second on the beam with a 9.600 score and fourth on the vault with a 9.650. Jayme Stambaugh also performed well on the vault with a 9.700 score.

Leading the way for the Falcons on the uneven bars was Jessica McArthur with a 9.500 score,

GYMNASTICS, PAGE 13

INTRAMURALS

Students excited about various leagues provided by University

By Dan Wyr
REPORTER

With the spring semester just getting underway at BGSU, the start of intramural sports are also beginning.

Basketball, racquetball, curling, inner tube water polo, volleyball and four-player flag football all begin this month and many BGSU students seem to be very excited.

"I love the competition that intramurals provide and bringing home an intramural cham-

pionship t-shirt with my friends, which I plan on doing a few times this semester," said junior Derrick Sattler.

Sattler isn't alone.

"Intramurals are a great way of having fun again without worrying about going to practice or having a coach yell at you," said senior Mark Clute.

Basketball features leagues for men and women, but also a co-ed league, which allows men and women to play on the same team and compete against each other.

The intramural office encourages participants to sign up for basketball as soon as possible due to the popularity of this sport.

"It's nice because the league is divided into a competitive league, for people who take intramural basketball more serious, and a recreation league, which is more mellow, but still very good competition," said junior Justin Stankiewicz.

In its second year of existence,

INTRAMURALS, PAGE 13

BG starts on 13-2 run

FAST START, FROM PAGE 12

have been decided by four points or less — a feat that didn't seem at all attainable early on in the first half. The Falcons jumped out to a 13-2 advantage with 10:08 remaining on a Soler lay-up, but Toledo hit back-to-back 3s to cut the lead to 13-8.

"I thought we got the lead the right way, by defending and cutting," Dakich said. "The wrong way is throwing in a bunch of 3s when the shot clock is running down."

Wrong or right, the Rockets battled back to tie the game

at 27-27 entering half time. Momentum appeared to swing toward their way, and the Falcons have certainly not established themselves as a great second-half team this season. But BG jumped out to a five-point advantage five minutes into the frame and relinquished the lead just once the rest of the way.

"At the end of the day, we made a couple shots, and they missed some shots and some free throws," Dakich said. "That has a lot to do with the ending of a basketball game."

After all, Dakich should know.

BG captures important league game

WOMEN, FROM PAGE 12

assists) had six points in the opening seven minutes, taking it to the basket against one of the top defensive teams in the conference.

Both teams continued to exchange baskets, and with 10:08 remaining the Falcons had a 17-point lead, 51-33. And that's when Kent (9-5, 2-1 MAC) began an 18-2 run.

"I felt we played very tentative for the most part," Kent coach Bob Lindsay said. "We played back on our heels until we got down by 17 and decided it was time to start playing."

The Golden Flashes were led by Lindsay Shearer, the league's leading scorer, who recorded 20 points. La'kia Stewart added 14, and last year's MAC Defensive Player of the Year, Malika Willoughby, added 10 points and three steals.

Miller said it was Kent's in-your-face defense and constant full-court pressure that caused the turning point in the game.

"In the second half, clearly their pressure," he said. "As they got us worn down we weren't able to score as easy, and it was a real struggle every possession to find points."

But the Falcons did find points when they needed to, includ-

ing a momentum-shifting 3 by Horne with 2:40 remaining to give the Falcons a five-point lead. The shot, off a broken play with no time left on the shot clock, was reminiscent of a dagger Horne had in last year's MAC Championship game.

"I love her type of mentality ... she believes the shot is going to go in," Miller said. "She wants the ball in crunch time and she thrives on that."

Freshman Jasmine McCall also proved that she wants the ball in crunch time. The back-up point guard, who replaced Achter when she fouled out, found herself at the free throw line with 10 seconds remaining in the game, her team up one.

After sinking both of them, a missed 3 by Shearer gave the Falcons the victory.

"Jazz made two huge free throws that completely changed the dynamic of Kent's final possession," Miller said.

Kent never made a 3-pointer the entire game, the first time since Feb. 19, 2003. The Falcons shot 34.4 percent from the field, but 36.8 percent from behind the arc.

"It was crazy, it felt like the MAC tournament all over again," Mann said. "It was a great environment to be in, with all the people yelling and screaming."



HIGH FLYER: Kent State's Malika Willoughby shoots over BG's Kate Achter in the Falcons' 61-58 victory Saturday at the M.A.C. Center.

Guyer not enough

GYMNASTICS, FROM PAGE 12

which tied for seventh place. McArthur also performed well on vault posting a 9.525.

Other than Guyer, who led the team with a 9.675, the floor routine of Candice Deacon earned a 9.600, with teammate Jacque Bernhardt posting a 9.575.

Connolly had mixed feelings about the individual events.

"I was a little encouraged by our uneven bars because I thought that was going to be our

worst event, and I think vault was our best event," he said. "But we definitely need to step things up on both the floor and the balance beam."

When Connolly was asked if there would be adjustments made for next week he replied, "I think you'll see some changes by next week without any doubt."

The Falcons hope to rebound next week against Central Michigan in their home opener, which takes place at 7 p.m. Saturday in the Eppler Center Gymnasium.

Wells to challenge for reps at Ohio State

Akron phenom hopes to be another weapon in OSU backfield

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — Not even a 1,300-yard season that included big plays against Michigan and Notre Dame is enough to guarantee Ohio State tailback Antonio Pittman the starting job next season.

And the player who could take

the job away from Pittman, or at least cut heavily into his playing time, is still a high school senior who won't officially sign as an Ohio State recruit until Feb. 1.

But the three-touchdown performance by Akron Garfield's Chris Wells on national television Jan. 7 in the high school All-American Bowl showed why he's a threat to take Pittman's job.

Pittman is well aware he can't slack off after the No. 4 Buckeyes

completed a 10-2 season with a 34-20 victory over Notre Dame on Jan. 2 in the Fiesta Bowl.

He is already working out on his own even though winter conditioning doesn't begin until mid-February.

"The fact he's coming is going to be a natural 1-2 punch, two kids from Akron," said Pittman who attended Akron Buchtel. "I'm all for it. Still, I've got to work even harder."

The 5-foot-11, 195-pound Pittman made a huge leap last season in understanding the film study and dedication required of a starter.

After gaining 381 yards on 73 carries as a freshman playing behind Lydell Ross and Maurice Hall, Pittman finished his sophomore year with 1,331 yards, more than Maurice Clarett's 1,237 yards during the national championship season of 2002.

Leagues offer competition without stress

INTRAMURALS, FROM PAGE 12

four-player flag-football is a scaled down version of the seven-player flag football that is played in the fall semester, and is played indoors in the Perry Field House. Most of the same rules apply in the four-player player league as in the seven-player league.

"It's a lot easier to move faster on turf than it is on grass," said junior Joey Vandevle. "And the weather in Bowling Green is very unpredictable. The wind in Bowling Green

is especially erratic, you never know what it's going to be like outside."

Perhaps the most unique intramural sport offered at BGSU is wallyball, which is volleyball played inside a racquetball court.

"I like playing wallyball because it's an intense, competitive game where teamwork is absolutely necessary in order to be successful," said junior Kevin Hruby.

In wallyball, most of the rules set in volleyball apply, except the fact that players may spike the ball

off the walls at their opponents.

"If you are able to spike the ball correctly against the walls, you can pretty much be an unstoppable wallyball player," Hruby said. "However, hitting the walls at an incorrect angle or hitting the ball too hard can result in a bad play and points for the opponent."

BGSU students, faculty and staff are eligible to participate in intramurals. However, there are restrictions for varsity and club athletes in related intramural sports and fraternity and sorority

members must maintain a GPA per Greek Affairs guidelines to play on a Greek-affiliated team.

Most intramural sports are free to play, besides curling and broomball where there is an entry fee.

Entry forms are available at least one week prior to the beginning date of acceptance and are available at the Perry Field House Intramural Office, the Student Recreation Center, residence hall lobby areas, or online at the BGSU Intramural Sports web page.

BG keeps Kent in check from long range

DEFENSE, FROM PAGE 12

to just 8-of-27 from the field and only 22 points.

"They pressure the ball like crazy; they're a killer defensive team," said junior forward, Ali Mann. "I thought we did a good job handling their pressure and limiting turnovers."

The tides turned quickly however in the second half, when Bowling Green was held to a meager 25 percent field goal

shooting. On the other end of the court, Kent State turned up the pressure by erasing a double-digit Falcon lead.

"Our defensive pressure eventually wore them down," said Kent coach Bob Lindsay. "We let the game go up and down the floor which is what we wanted. So maybe that pace of the first half, that pressure eventually wore them down a little bit."

Miller shared those exact sentiments.

"In the second half, clearly their pressure, as they got us worn down we weren't able to score as easy, and it was a real struggle every possession to find points," he said.

But in the end it was defense that would give BG what it hadn't had at Kent State — a win.

On the final play of the game, Bowling Green supporters rose to their feet as Kent State forward Lindsay Shearer missed a

3-pointer as time expired. The Falcons held Shearer and the Golden Flash to 0-for-12 shooting from behind the arc — the first time the team has failed to convert a 3-point attempt in 85 games.

"I'm proud of my team that they were able to step up and make plays down the stretch and come away with what is as big of road win in our program as I've seen since I've been here," Miller said.

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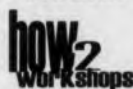
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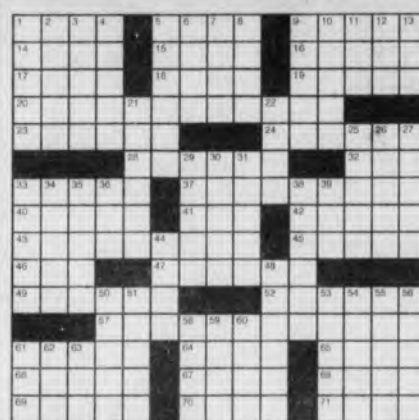
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- 1 Some distance
5 Actress Talbot
9 Knowing
14 Fill a hold
15 Exploitive one
16 Overdress
17 Environs
18 Marc's love
19 Type of football
20 Defoe's shop-loving heroine?
23 Whoopie's "Ghost" role
24 Essential parts
28 Move stealthily
32 Poppycock!
33 Wrist bones
37 Blackmore's sand-loving heroine?
40 At right angles to a ship's length
41 Clare of "Beak House"
42 Sedate
43 Shaw's sow-loving heroine?
45 Pick up

- 46 Writer LeShan
47 At home
49 Experience a flashback
52 Save
57 Travers' nuptial-loving heroine?
61 Squeals
64 Saab model
65 Yale grads
66 Scuffle
67 Marsh bird
68 Quote an example
69 Joins by heating
70 Work units
71 Comes out with

- 1 Hertz rival
2 Unit of capacitance
3 Ms. Rogers St. Johns
4 Domain
5 Atom centers
6 Madonna hit, "La Bonita"
7 Ager of parents
8 Yankee slugger, in headlines
9 Video-game name
10 Least satisfactory
11 Birthday count
12 Dash
13 Ecol. watchers
21 Daughter Mohammed
22 Tied
25 Oranjestad's country
26 One not comfy in company
27 Howard or Isaac
29 Like Jane Eyre
30 Commotions
31 Certain Algerian
33 Prank
34 Stomach

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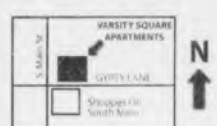
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